



A REGIONAL FORUM WITH GLOBAL IMPACT.

In The Public Trust

**A STATEMENT ON SHARED VALUES
AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
PHILANTHROPY NEW YORK
JUNE 2005**

Philanthropy plays a special role in advancing the common good. Democratic traditions, personal values, and religious faiths have stimulated a wide array of giving institutions across the United States and abroad. Charitable resources have been used to relieve human suffering, expand knowledge, promote artistic expression, and pilot innovative solutions to the world's most pressing social, economic, and environmental problems.

The New York Metropolis, the birthplace of modern American philanthropy, is home to more foundations and corporate grantmakers than anywhere else. For over twenty-five years, Philanthropy New York has been a leader in offering programs and resources that support grantmaking and communicating the value of philanthropy in our society. Philanthropy New York members represent a wide array of institutional donors, the breadth of which enriches the sector and spurs creative approaches to charitable work.

The members of Philanthropy New York abide by state and federal laws that govern charities and adhere to the highest professional and ethical practices. Philanthropy New York's Board of Directors adopted *In the Public Trust* to articulate a shared commitment to excellence in our field and to serve as a guide for its members.

SHARED VALUES

WE SUBSCRIBE TO THESE VALUES:

- **GREATER SOCIAL GOOD:** We contribute to the advancement of society as a whole and assist the most vulnerable populations in achieving a better quality of life.
- **INTEGRITY:** We operate with integrity and the highest professional standards, are responsible stewards of our resources, and adhere to all laws and regulations.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** We are transparent, open, and honest in our interactions and communications with grantseekers, other funders, the government, and the general public.
- **DIVERSITY:** We embrace the many forms of diversity, including ethnic, cultural, racial, religious, sexual orientation, economic status, physical abilities, and gender, and draw from the perspectives, opinions, and experiences of a cross-section of people.
- **JUSTICE:** We promote equal opportunity for all.
- **BOLDNESS AND INNOVATION:** We collaborate with others to share and expand knowledge, promote intellectual inquiry, and seek out innovative and imaginative solutions and approaches.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES

WE STRIVE TO ENSURE THAT OUR VALUES ARE REFLECTED IN OUR WORDS, ACTIONS, AND EVERYDAY PRACTICES THROUGH OUR:

Relationship with Grantseeking and Grantee Organizations:

- Maintain constructive relations based on mutual respect
- Communicate in a clear and timely manner
- Treat them fairly and respectfully

- Understand their organizational capacity and needs
- Respect their integrity and recognize their expertise and knowledge
- Encourage constructive feedback on grantmaking practices

Relationship with Other Funders:

- Encourage communication, collaboration, and shared learning
- Promote the exchange of ideas and appreciation for the differences in grantmaking approaches and focus areas
- Hold each other accountable to ethical practices

Relationship with the Government:

- Advance effective solutions and approaches to societal issues
- Encourage active and engaged civic life
- Comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations that govern philanthropy
- Promote an informed understanding of philanthropy

Relationship with the Public:

- Demonstrate citizenship through our grantmaking and operations
- Share knowledge and research with appropriate institutions and the media
- Make information about our work easily accessible through publications, annual reports, websites, and other appropriate communications channels

PHILANTHROPY NEW YORK'S ROLE

For more than a quarter of a century, Philanthropy New York has provided leadership and assisted grantmakers in gaining competency to formulate and advance their charitable missions in ways that have the most impact and illustrate the highest professional and ethical practices. We continue to do so through our educational offerings and resources and by widely sharing exemplary practices and approaches.

We continue our leadership role—holding our profession to the highest standards, publicly speaking out against illegal and unethical abuses and practices, and highlighting the positive contributions of the charitable sector. We reflect on and evaluate our work, as a community and with others, assessing how our values and practice are integrated into our organization.

By adopting these shared values and professional practices, Philanthropy New York members reaffirm their responsibility to society and commit to ensure that philanthropy continues to maintain the public's trust.